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CZECHOSLOVAKIA: POLITICAL

NKVD Activities in Connection with General Prehala's Plot and General Bartik's Dismissal.

The following information comes from a prominent and well placed member of the Slovak Democratic Party:

1. In January 1946, when a number of persons involved in General Prehala's machinations against the Czechoslovak Provisional Government were arrested, the NKVD took some control of the investigation. No direct interrogations were made; the NKVD worked through the Czechoslovak organizations in charge of the investigation.

2. The dismissal of General Bartik is said to be directly attributable to the NKVD.

SSU Comment: Various explanations have been given for the dismissal of General Bartik on the night of 15-16 January. The immediate cause was the arrest of one of his agents, who had strong anti-Soviet material in his possession. It was also said that his arrest was due to Left-wing suspicion that Bartik was withholding incriminating material against conservatives and reactionaries. On 21 February, Vaclav Nosek, Communist Minister for the Interior, told the Parliamentary Defense Committee that the dismissal was due to a loss in confidence in Bartik, brought about mainly by his employment of an anti-Soviet agent. (Of. LC-534, 23 February; L-1210, 6 February; and L-1143, 18 January).

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